

Washington, DC - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced his nominees to the U.S. service academies for the Class of 2017. After a thorough examination process in which his office reviewed numerous applications, Hinchey selected 21 local high school students whom he believes would excel at the U.S. Air Force, Military, Naval and Merchant Marine Academies.

"It is my privilege to put forward the names of 21 students who represent the very best of what our part of New York has to offer," said Hinchey. "Throughout my career in Congress, I have had the opportunity to nominate hundreds of area residents for our nation's service academies. These individuals have excelled in scholastics, physical fitness and extracurricular activities. I wish them all the very best with the rest of their application process. Their willingness to serve should make us all proud."

In addition to academics, fitness and extracurricular, professional recommendations and a personal interview were also considered in the nomination process. The process is highly competitive and the admissions departments of the service academies make the final decision on acceptance.

The names of Hinchey's nominees are listed by academy:

United States Air Force Academy

Ashley Torres of Newburgh, Newburgh High School

James Zock of Montgomery, Valley Central High School

Jesse Sparling of Saugerties, Saugerties High School

Jacob Sells of Endicott, Union-Endicott High School

Kenneth Burkus, of Vestal, USAF Prep School

United States Military Academy

David Nicholas of Johnson City, Johnson City Senior High School

Tucker Osarczuk of New Paltz, New Paltz Central High School

Lincoln Kelly of New Paltz, New Paltz Central High School

Emily Beecher of New Paltz, New Paltz Central High School

Patrick Riley of Newburgh, Our Lady of Lourdes High School

Patrick Ortland of Newburgh, Newburgh High School

Zachary Walminski of Wallkill, Our Lady of Lourdes High School

Matthew Tamburri of Newburgh, Marlboro High School

Tyler Allen of Endicott, Marion Military Institute

Mark Duviella of Newburgh, New York Military Academy

United States Merchant Marine Academy

Maria Range of Middletown, Pine Bush Central High School

United States Naval Academy

Daniel Guarnaccia of Poughkeepsie, Poughkeepsie High School

Tina Alberts of Newburgh, Newburgh Free Academy

Colin Lyons of Kingston, Kingston High School

Eric Beresheim of Saugerties, Saugerties High School

John Reese of Endicott, Union-Endicott High School

Members of the House and Senate may nominate eligible candidates for appointments to the nation's service academies. Senators nominate applicants statewide, while representatives, such as Hinchey, nominate applicants only from the congressional district they represent.

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